



Dave Kimball
Principal

Kristina Wallace
Assistant Principal

August 31, 2020

Hello AMS Friends and Families,

Well, our first day is in the books, and we feel that it was a success. We want to thank all of our students for being so flexible today. We heard from our staff how wonderful it was to have students back in the building, and we could not agree more. We are fortunate to work with such an exceptional group of young people, and we cannot express how impressed we are with how they handled themselves today.

As we enter a school year that will look different than any other, we have a much stronger focus on remote learning, which has changed the way our staff delivers instruction. We have secured additional resources and technologies to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. Within our first few weeks, all of us will be working together to determine what works best in terms of connecting with our students who are learning at home (while we also provide instruction to the students who are present in our classrooms), including how we will project our screens while we also have students live on our laptops, and how we communicate with our students at home through their computer microphones and ours. We do not expect any of it to work seamlessly at first, as we all need to truly work with the technology and the students in a new way so that we can troubleshoot issues.

With that being said, we ask for your patience and understanding as our students and faculty become comfortable and fluent in this new learning environment. Thank you for supporting our staff as we navigate new procedures and methods. Remember, we are accustomed to having students with us, in person. Last spring, we learned how to navigate having none of our students with us in person. Today, we began the process of using both of those skills simultaneously. As we are sure you understand, this new delivery model is something that we will continue to improve with, but like all new things, we simply need some time to acclimate ourselves and our students to this new model of learning.

We thank you for your grace and understanding, and look forward to an exciting year. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on the AMS staff.

Stay well,

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New Items:

Student Pickup:

- For those families fortunate enough to experience our student pickup today, I am sure you can understand why we support our students taking advantage of our bus transportation. Even with roughly half the amount of students coming on any given day, it is quite congested upon entering from West Avon Road. Below are a few requests and tips we would like to share in an effort to make the drop off experience more enjoyable.
 - Please have your student take the bus if at all possible. This will help diminish the amount of traffic in both the morning and afternoon.
 - Please enter the AMS parking lot from West Avon Road by taking a right hand turn. While we understand that this may take some parents out of their way, it allows our buses access to our parking lot. Half of our first-round buses were delayed 20 minutes today. This places both AMS and TBS in delayed dismissal patterns as we both wait for buses to arrive and depart.
 - For the remainder of this week, from Aug 31st to Sept. 4th, please do not enter the AMS parking lot prior to 11:25. This will give our first round buses enough time to get in and get out of the parking lot, and hopefully allow our second round buses to get closer to being in place.

Technology Requests:

- Recently, APS sent out a survey to identify which families may be in need of a device, and if they had a device that their student could take to and from school. So that you are aware, families who requested Chromebooks by Friday evening on Aug. 28th, were provided one today. Requests that come in after Aug. 28th will be deployed as quickly as possible.
- Here is a link to the [APS Technology Letter Aug 27 2020](#). If you need to request a device for your student, this is where to start.

Textbook Deployment:

- For our remote only learners, we are gathering text books for you. While a majority of our textbooks are available online, and students will be provided those details from their classroom teacher, some are not. We will reach out to each parent personally to arrange a time for pickup.

Previously Shared Documents:

Schedules:

- Student schedules are available in the PowerSchool portal. Please reach out to your student's school counselor with any schedule related questions: Cara Boland (grade 7)- cboland@avon.k12.ct.us and Chris Franco (grade 8)- cfranco@avon.k12.ct.us.
- Requests for specific teams/teachers are not able to be honored. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Masks:

- We suggest that our students begin building some mask tolerance. While our students may be accustomed to wearing a mask to and from home, and in some public spaces, the duration of time wearing a mask will be much longer at school. Again, our classes are 57 minutes, with students attending 6 classes in a day. While we will find opportunities for students to have mask breaks, these breaks will be short and spaced out throughout the day. Also, it is possible a student may have a mask on for 2 hours at a time. Therefore, the more opportunities you can build into your student's day, leading up to our open, will be beneficial to their health and safety preparedness.

Opening Week Schedule:

- Our first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 31. Cohort 1 will be in person and Cohort 2 will be remote on the first day. Cohort 2 will be in person and Cohort 1 will be remote on the second day. The rotation of cohorts and A/B days through the month of September is linked here for your convenience: [AMS Hybrid Cohort and A/B Rotation](#).
- Students who are remote on their hybrid (the non in-person day), or full-remote, will follow their regular schedule. Students will sign in and out of their Google Classroom Hangouts, aligned with our building bell schedule, on their remote days.
- AMS will run an early release schedule on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for the first week- the school day will end at 11:10am on these days. Wednesday will be our "Hybrid Remote Wednesday" schedule- the school day will end at 11:55am on this day.
All bell schedules can be found in the AMS Hybrid and Full Remote Learning Plan, linked below.

Chromebooks:

- If your child has a district issued chromebook please have them bring it with them on their return to school, along with the charger.
- Students who do not have a device, and are in need of one, will receive one on their first day of in person instruction in their first period class.
- If your child is full remote for the first quarter, a district correspondence will come out explaining how to procure a district issued device.
- Please remember to charge your device if you are bringing one in with you. Students should bring their chromebook and charger to school each day in their backpack.
- We understand that some of our students starting remote, or are in cohort 2, may not be able to connect with their class due to a lack of technology on the first day. Our staff is aware of this, and has planned accordingly to ensure that each student receives the best experience possible from the start. Thank you for your patience, while we navigate the first few days of school.

Google Classroom:

- Students will be receiving invitations to google classrooms from each of their teachers throughout the course of the week. If your student has not received a google classroom invitation from each of their teachers by Thursday, please have your student email individual teachers to remind them.

Sports:

- As for our fall sports, we will run cross country and field hockey. Here is a link to our most current plan: [AMS Fall Sports Plan 2020](#). As with everything else, this is a fluid plan. Therefore, as the CIAC or the Farmington Valley Health District puts out updated guidance, we will revisit and adjust our plan accordingly.

First Week of School Orientation:

- [Orientation Slides](#)
 - Teachers will be reviewing the information covered in these slides during the first week of school- specific topics will be covered in different classes throughout the first two days.
 - We wanted to share this with families in advance of Monday, so you'll have a snapshot into what will be covered with your students, and as a resource throughout the year.
 - This slideshow was adapted from the AMS Reopening Plan, which was shared with families earlier this summer, to ensure students are aware of the updated protocols and procedures.

Desk Shields

- The desk shields are being assigned to students, and we will have students write their names on them when they receive them. These shields will travel to and from school with students. Please think of them as an added piece of personal equipment.
 - They cannot be cleaned with any harsh chemicals as they will scratch, damage, or even melt the plexiglass.
 - If they need to be wiped down, they can be wiped with water and microfiber cloths or paper towels. Students and families are asked to help us continue to keep our environment as clean as we can by wiping the desk shields them down at home daily.
 - Students are expected to conduct themselves with the same levels of responsibility, resilience, curiosity and compassion when it comes to carrying their desk shields through the halls and to/from school. Please reinforce the importance of this with your student prior to Monday and regularly throughout the year. We appreciate your support on this!

Textbooks

- Students will receive their textbooks in class.
- Additional information will be sent out to parents of full remote learners on when they can pick up their textbooks later this week.

Link to AMS Supply List: [AMS General Supply List](#)

Link to [AMS Learning Model Schedule](#)

[Email from Mr. Kimball dated 8.10.20 on the Hybrid/Remote Plan for AMS](#)